

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A method of configuring automatic responses to incoming email messages,  
comprising:  
  
enabling configuration of a plurality of automatic responses, each of the  
  
plurality of automatic responses tailored for a type of the incoming email  
  
messages;  
  
examining the incoming email messages to determine the type; and  
  
responding to the incoming email messages with one of the plurality of  
  
automatic responses, the one of the plurality of automatic responses  
  
selected according to the type of the incoming email message.
2. The method according to Claim 1 wherein examining the incoming email  
messages further comprises flagging the email messages according to the type.
3. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the type includes a plurality of  
internal mail types.
4. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the type includes one of an internal  
mail type and an external mail type.

5. The method according to Claim 4 wherein the external mail type comprises at least one of a plurality of defined domains.
6. The method according to Claim 4 wherein the internal mail type comprises at least one of a plurality of defined internal organizations.
7. The method according to Claim 1 wherein enabling configuration of the plurality of automated responses further comprises enabling users to configure the plurality of automated responses via a user interface.
8. An article comprising a machine-accessible medium having stored thereon instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:  
  
enable configuration of a plurality of automatic responses, each of the plurality of automatic responses tailored for a type of the incoming email messages;  
  
examine the incoming email messages to determine the type; and  
  
respond to the incoming email messages with one of the plurality of automatic responses, the one of the plurality of automatic responses selected according to the type of the incoming email message.
9. The article according to Claim 8 wherein the instructions that cause the machine to examine the incoming email messages further comprises instructions that cause the machine to flag the email messages according to the type.

10. The article according to Claim 8 wherein the type includes a plurality of internal mail types.
11. The article according to Claim 8 wherein the type includes one of an internal mail type and an external mail type.
12. The article according to Claim 11 wherein the external mail type comprises at least one of a plurality of defined domains.
13. The article according to Claim 11 wherein the internal mail type comprises at least one of a plurality of defined internal organizations.
14. The article according to Claim 8 wherein the instructions that enable configuration of the plurality of automated responses further comprises instructions that enable users to configure the plurality of automated responses via a user interface.
15. A system for configuring automatic responses to incoming email messages, comprising:

a user interface capable of accepting input data to configure at least one of a first automatic response and a second automatic response to the incoming email messages;

a mail sender filter capable of examining the incoming email messages to determine a type of the email messages;

a first email responder capable of sending out the first automatic email response based the type of the email messages; and

a second email responder capable of sending out the second automatic email response based on the type of the email messages.

16. The system according to Claim 15 wherein the mail sender filter is further capable of flagging the email messages according to the type.

17. The system according to Claim 15 wherein the first mail responder includes an internal mail responder.

18. The system according to Claim 15 wherein the type includes a plurality of internal mail types.

19. The system according to Claim 15 wherein the second mail responder includes an external mail responder.

20. The system according to Claim 15 wherein the type includes one of an internal mail type and an external mail type.
21. The system according to Claim 20 wherein the external mail type comprises at least one of a plurality of defined domains.
22. The system according to Claim 20 wherein the internal mail type includes at least one of a plurality of internal organizations.